GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5954
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2005
THALASSAEMIA PATIENTS
Badiga Shri Ramakrishna;Ponnuswamy Shri E.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of Thalassaemia patients is growing day by day;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years till date, State-wise;

(c) whether neither the requisite blood units nor are the medicines available in sufficient quantity; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures being proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a): Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has informed that with the increase in awareness and screening programmes being undertaken in different States, more cases of Thalassaemia are being detected. It is estimated by ICMR that presently there are 250 lakh carriers of this disease in the country and appromixately 10000 children with Thalassaemia Major are born every year.

(b): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c): According to ICMR, the mainstay of treatment of Thalassaemia is blood transfusion. Sufficient blood is available in blood banks of various hospitals for this purpose. Thalassaemics struggle because of complications resulting from the iron overload caused by repeated blood transfusion and not due to non-availability of blood.

(d)&(e) Do not arise.